

## **IMPROVED ROD CONNECTOR ASSEMBLY**

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

An improved rod connector assembly and method for mechanically fastening two rods together. Generally planar mating surfaces of a first rod assembly and a  
5 second rod assembly are compressively coupled by a rod union. The compressive load by the rod union is derived from a tapered surface that provides an interference fit to a corresponding tapered surface on the first rod assembly. Clearance diameters provided within the rod union accommodate axial misalignment of the first rod assembly and the second rod assembly. The second rod assembly includes an  
10 adjustable rod adapter to provide coupling to rods of various lengths. The first rod assembly includes an internal cavity to receive a portion of the second rod that may protrude from the adjustable rod adapter. Shaped mating surfaces of the rod adapters are received in a corresponding shaped cavity of the union to prevent rotation of the adapters.